

FIREFIGHTER/OPERATOR

(Competitive Class)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS

The class of Firefighter/Operator comprises entrance level positions in the fire suppression division of fire department operations. Employees of this class receive training in and perform firefighting and fire suppression tasks such as controlling and extinguishing fires, driving and operating fire apparatus and equipment, and maintaining fire department vehicles. Employees of this class perform rescue work by assisting victims of fires and providing emergency medical care to the sick or injured at the emergency scene. Firefighters/Operators participate in areas concerning pre-fire planning, inspections and fire prevention. Employees of this class work independently in most areas, receiving general instructions for special task assignments under the direction and supervision of the Fire Chief.

EXAMPLES OF WORK

Examples listed below are illustrative only. They are not intended to include all duties which may be assigned, neither are they intended to exclude other duties which may be logical assignments to this class.

Trains for and performs firefighting and rescue tasks such as carrying, connecting, and operating hose lines; using direct streams or water curtains; forcible entry; ventilation; and using ladders, lines, and other equipment to aid in fighting fires or removing fire and accident victims to safety. Evaluates smell and color of smoke and effects of environmental conditions to determine appropriate procedures to extinguish fire. Observes burning structure and locates and extinguishes fire source, hidden fires and hot spots.

Operates and rides in fire apparatus to and from fire or emergency scene. Ensures a timely response to the fire or emergency scene by taking shortest route available using resources of maps or memory. Communicates with dispatcher and fire vehicles using two-way radio. Evaluates navigational problems such as narrow alleys or structural impasses and determines a means of entrance and egress. Positions and connects to supply source. Stabilizes apparatus using truck jacks, outriggers, or wheel chocks.

Operates pumper to supply adequate pressure to the nozzle. Calculates required water flow, friction loss, and discharge pressures necessary for fire suppression. Determines the number of required hose lines necessary for fire suppression. Operates and controls portable, fixed, or large-caliber water streams.

Performs salvage tasks necessary to protect property, using covers, tarps, or other materials. Protects salvaged property from theft by observing bystanders. Carries or removes burning items to reduce fire and smoke damage. Removes debris and charred waste. Picks up water after fire is extinguished using appropriate method. Constructs catch-alls to trap and dispose of water. Shores up or tears down weak and dangerous structural components. Wedges or clamps sprinkler heads after fire is extinguished to shut off flow of water, resets alarms and restores sprinkler systems.

Responds to medical emergency calls and examines victims for signs of injury and administers first aid to treat minor injuries, as well as emergency care to victims of fires, accidents, drowning, poisoning, drug overdose and other emergencies. Cuts or pries open vehicles or machinery to free persons trapped.

Participates in fire investigation and fire cause determination. Recognizes, notes, and preserves evidence of arson. Informs officer in charge of suspected arson. Observes spectators for suspicious behavior and questions witnesses to determine fire cause. Protects premises where arson is suspected and assists in locating and apprehending persons involved in arson. Testifies in court when required.

Participates in fire prevention and fire inspection tasks such as inspecting buildings for fire hazards and compliance to fire codes, inspecting portable fire extinguishers, studying the district to become familiar with the location of water lines, and related duties. Conducts prevention inspection of residences. Draws preplanning maps and diagrams. Monitors water pressure in assigned areas or zones. Participates in pre-fire planning, including gathering and studying information regarding types of occupancy and structure, building layout, hydrant and standpipe location, and hazardous materials storage. Conducts fire drills in schools and businesses. Inspects smoke and heat detector devices in public and private properties. Updates hydrant maps and vital building books. Studies and maintains proficiency in the procedures for special emergencies. Reads and recognizes HAZMAT symbols to identify flammable or hazardous materials. Removes containers of flammable or hazardous materials at the fire scene under direction of a superior officer. Acts to contain hazardous material spill or control spread. Locates and operates valves for gas, electricity, oil, and water in buildings to reduce hazard.

Participates in assigned training drills either as an individual or as a member of a group. Practices with apparatus and equipment under supervision to increase and maintain

proficiency. Studies direct routes, location of streets, water mains, and hydrants in response area. Assists with developing training presentations within the department, and provides occasional "on-the-job" training as directed. Reads and studies assigned materials including firefighting training materials, technical firefighting manuals, and basic laws and regulations or updates related to performance of work.

Cleans, dries, tests, inspects, and properly secures any assigned fire fighting equipment such as fire apparatus, communications equipment, hoses, nozzles, hand tools, portable breathing apparatus, turn-out equipment, ladders, or related equipment. Performs periodic tests of apparatus pumping capacity and pressure. Maintains inventory of tools and equipment on apparatus using checklist or knowledge of equipment. Inspects tools for damage or to determine if any tools are missing, and makes report. Makes minor repairs to equipment and tools.

Performs tasks necessary for the proper maintenance and function of the station and grounds such as cleaning floors and windows, emptying trash cans, changing bed linens, cutting grass, and performing other maintenance duties. Assists in preparing meals for firefighters at the station and cleans kitchen area. Provides for the security of the station by locking station doors and securing valuable items. Maintains the organization of the station library. Inspects fire station and notifies officer in charge of needed repairs.

Performs public relations duties such as calming excited citizens at emergency scene, receiving and responding to questions and complaints from the public, and providing information to the public concerning the work of the fire department. Works with local youth groups and other community groups, delivering lectures or demonstrations on fire prevention or fire safety. Receives telephone calls and provides necessary information or directions. Refers calls to appropriate personnel or agency. Assists visitors at the station. Conducts fire station tours and explains fire equipment and firefighting techniques to visiting public. Completes any forms, records, or reports as required.

Performs related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Unless otherwise specified, all requirements must be met by the filing deadline for application for admission to the examination.

Must meet all requirements of the Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Law, including being a citizen of the United States and of legal age.

After offer of employment, but before beginning work in this class, must pass a physical examination, the selection and administration of which shall be authorized by the Appointing Authority, designed to demonstrate good health and physical fitness sufficient to perform the essential duties of the position, with or without accommodation.

Must have a high school diploma or a valid certificate of equivalency issued by a state department of education.

Must have a valid driver's license.